GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:40
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH DAMS IN UPPER REACHES OF RIVERS
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received recommendations to construct high dams in upper reaches of rivers originating in Nepal in order to check recurring floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan formulated for undertaking the said projects and the details of the negotiations carried on with the Government of Nepal in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) IN RESPECT OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 40 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.10.2008 REGARDING `CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH DAMS IN UPPER REACHES OF RIVERS` BY SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sharda (Mahakali in Nepal), Saptakosi High Dam Project on river Kosi and Naumure Multipurpose Project on river West Rapti, are under discussion in India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the countries. The 3rd meeting of JCWR has been held recently from 29.09.08 to 01.10.08 at Kathmandu. During the meeting, JCWR decided to set up a Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest in accordance with the Mahakali Treaty for the development, execution and operation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. Further, the JCWR decided to extend the tenure of Joint Project Office (JPO) established for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project including Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme upto December, 2009 for expeditious completion of DPR. Indian side also agreed to undertake pre-feasibility study of Naumure Multipurpose Project.

A three tier mechanism consisting of Joint Ministerial Commission of Water Resources (JMCWR) to be co-chaired by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, the existing Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) at the level of Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Nepal and Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) to coordinate all existing Committees and Sub-committees, has also been agreed in the 3rd meeting of JCWR to expedite the implementation of the above said projects in Nepal.

These high dam projects, on implementation, would provide benefits to people of India and Nepal, in the form of hydro-power, irrigation and flood moderation. In addition, Saptakosi High Dam Project may also provide inland navigation to Nepal, via Kosi river.